

Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities

2011 Award Winners

State Agency of the Year, Department of Employment Security, Terry Larkin, Acting Director

Nominated by Carlos R. Charneco, Department of Employment Security

The agency is honored for its outstanding program to promote access and independence for employees with disabilities. Over 18% of Department of Employment Security' (DES) employees have disabilities, compared with a state average for Code agencies of 6% and a goal of 11% for executive state agencies. Nearly 27% of FY10 DES promotions went to employees with disabilities, which is significantly higher than the workforce representation of this group. The agency provided a variety of accommodations to improve the productivity of employees with disabilities, including keyboards, large-screen monitors, Braille equipment, specialized software, flexible hours, ergonomic chairs and footrests. DES provided disability-related training to its staff in FY10 and ensured that employees with disabilities were aware of their rights in the workplace.

Non-Profit/Business of the Year – Rush University Medical Center, Larry J. Goodman, M.D. and CEO

Nominated by Martha Younger-White, Department of Human Services

Rush University Medical Center is honored for its far-reaching and continuing program to improve access for people with disabilities. Rush created its ADA Task Force shortly after the adoption of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. Since then, Rush has won awards and been cited in many publications because of its best practices in the disability arena. Chaired by the Associate Vice President for Equal Opportunity, the Task Force is comprised of about 20 employees and faculty from all areas of the medical center, many of whom have disabilities and all of whom have the ability to create change and improvement relative to disability rights and practices. This coming year, Rush will celebrate 20 years of the Tack Force. During that time period, Rush implemented almost 50 projects and practices to improve disability access, including: 1) incorporating universal design standards in all aspects of Rush Transformation Program; 2) developing new programs and training regarding adults and younger patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities; 3) instituting an older adult program focusing on health and aging; 4) adopting sign language and foreign language interpreter programs for patients and their families; and adjustable mammography and procedure tables, Hoyer lifts, stairwell assistance chairs to improve accessibility to health services.

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ICED Award Winners

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Employee of the Year – Timothy Miskell, Madden Mental Health Center, Department of Human Services

Nominated by Aisha Lawrence and Madden Mental Health Center

Mr. Miskell is honored for his overall initiative, enthusiasm, selflessness, and commitment to his job. Timothy Miskell, best known as Tim, has been a state employee since April 1992. Currently a Mental Health Technician, Tim's performance at Madden has always been considered, "Excellent." He has good working relationships with his colleagues, and is especially known for taking extra time in training new Mental Health Technicians. Tim promotes disability awareness and respect through his daily work with colleagues and mental health residents. Tim does not allow a disability to separate him from his duties, his colleagues, or his commitment to patient care. Therefore, Tim lives the adage, "Actions speak louder than words." Without being asked, Tim has taken the initiative to invest time, knowledge, and his own funds to assist Madden Mental Health Center in reaching its patient care goals. He's gathered and shared his own personal collection of patient educational materials and purchased music CDs to provide more choice for the Relaxation Group. He eagerly works beyond his job description, becoming a part of the work group developing new resident activities

Certificate Winners

Employees (Listed Alphabetically)

- **Brandie Belford**, Executive Secretary, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission
Nominated by DHHC Director John Miller
- **Tommy Saunders**, Human Services Caseworker, Department of Human Services
Nominated by Dan Dickerson, Department of Human Services

Non-Profit/Business (Listed Alphabetically)

- **Comcast**
Nominated by Daniel L. Yokas, Department of Employment Security
- **Manpower**
Nominated by Joe Chiappetta, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce – Disabilityworks
- **Sinai Health System's Deaf Access Program**
Nominated by Teri Hedding, Sinai Health System